

## **SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE STOLEN GENERATION COMPENSATION BILL 2008**

The apology to the Stolen Generations on February 13 2008 implemented one of the key recommendations of the *Bringing Them Home Report 1997*

I was happy that the new Government made its first act a formal apology from the Federal Parliament which was supported unanimously. I celebrated the event along with millions of other Australians.

However, I am disappointed that the government has rejected any proposal of providing monetary compensation for those forcibly and unjustifiably separated from their families. Successive governments have been part of a system which perpetuated and perpetrated active discrimination which has affected generations and generations of Aboriginal people and their communities who are in need of healing.

I support the establishment of a tribunal to deal with applications for compensation. It would be an injustice to all, members of the Stolen Generations and to the Tax payers of Australia if 'buckets' of money went into endless compensation cases before the courts. Unfortunately the major group to gain compensation from lengthy legal processes would be members of the legal profession.

I support establishing eligibility criteria for ex-gratia payments as described in the Bill to those who were subject to previous government policies which removed Indigenous children from their families. I also support that that eligibility can be extended to provide for children of those removed under previous government policies of removal to claim compensation payments to which their parent(s) would have had an entitlement.

I support that a completion date be established for processing applications for ex-gratia payments. Finally, I support the establishment of a Stolen Generations Fund as described in the Bill and a cap being placed on the amount paid to each claimant.

Submission made by

Sister Kathleen Tynan, Social Action Office, Queensland